

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 15 and 24-32 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter thereof.

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A system according to claim ~~6~~4, wherein said slow-rise waveform comprises a one of the following:

a ramp-up waveform V , wherein $V = mt$,

an exponential rise waveform V , wherein $V = \exp(t / \tau)$,

an exponential approach waveform V , wherein $V = 1 - \exp(-t / \tau)$; and

wherein said means for generating said slow-rise waveform comprises a switching power converter in operable electrical communication with at least one storage capacitor cell.

3. (original) A system according to claim 2, wherein said exponential decaying waveform is truncated to a nominal voltage at a predetermined time.

4. (original) A system according to claim 3, further comprising a second waveform having polarity opposite to the slow-rise waveform and means for transitioning from said slow-rise waveform to said second waveform at a predetermined time.

5. (currently amended) A system according to claim ~~6~~4, wherein said means for generating the slow-rise waveform includes a pulse-modulating circuit.

6. (currently amended) ~~A system according to claim 1, A system for generating a slow-rise waveform to deliver defibrillation energy to terminate a cardiac fibrillation condition, the system comprising:~~
means for generating a slow-rise waveform to an predetermined amplitude;

means for converting the slow-rise waveform to an exponential decaying waveform for a predetermined period of time; and

means for truncating said slow-rise waveform upon the expiration of the predetermined period of time, wherein said means for generating a slow-rise waveform to an predetermined amplitude includes an initial, relatively low amplitude step function from which the slow-rise waveform proceeds.

7. (original) A system according to claim 4, wherein the second waveform comprises a lower amplitude slow-rise waveform.

8. (currently amended) A system according to claim ~~6~~4, wherein the exponential decaying portion of the slow-rise waveform comprises an unmodulated capacitor discharge time function.

9. (currently amended) A system according to claim ~~6~~4, further comprising at least pair of defibrillation electrode assemblies electrically coupled to the system at a proximal end and electrically coupled to a portion of cardiac tissue near a distal end portion and wherein said pair of assemblies includes at least one of the following: a percutaneous electrode, a subcutaneous electrode, an epicardial electrode, an endocardial electrode, a pericardial electrode, a transcutaneous electrode, a surface electrode, a canister electrode, a coil electrode, a ring electrode.

10. (original) A system according to claim 4, wherein said slow-rise waveform includes a characteristic tilt of between approximately 50% and 75%.

11. (original) A system according to claim 10, wherein said second waveform includes a characteristic tilt of between approximately 50% and 75%.

12. (original) A system according to claim 4, wherein said second includes an initial, relatively low amplitude step function and said second waveform has a characteristic tilt of between approximately 50% and 75%.

13. (original) A system according to claim 12, wherein said second waveform comprises a second slow-rise waveform following said initial, relatively low amplitude step function.

14. (original) A system according to claim 13, wherein said second slow-rise waveform is followed by an exponential decay portion which in turn is followed by a truncated portion.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1945, further comprising the steps:

after the truncating step, generating a second defibrillation waveform of opposite polarity to said at least one pulse-modulated slow-rise defibrillation waveform; and providing said second defibrillation waveform to the portion of cardiac tissue.

17. (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said second defibrillation waveform comprises an initial slow-rise defibrillation waveform portion.

18. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein said initial slow-rise defibrillation waveform portion is followed by an exponentially decaying portion, and said decaying portion if followed by a truncated portion.

19. (currently amended) A method according to claim 15, A method of delivering at least one complex defibrillation waveform to a portion of cardiac tissue, comprising the steps:

confirming the presence of a cardiac arrhythmia terminable by delivery of a
defibrillation waveform;
generating at least one pulse-modulated slow-rise defibrillation waveform portion
until said slow-rise defibrillation waveform portion reaches a
predetermined amplitude;
allowing the amplitude of the defibrillation waveform to decay exponentially for
either a predefined period of time or until a predetermined voltage
threshold is reached;
truncating said defibrillation waveform;
providing said defibrillation waveform to a portion of cardiac tissue; and further
~~comprising the steps of~~ **determining whether the cardiac arrhythmia has terminated, and**
if not, repeating the foregoing steps of claim 15 at a higher magnitude predetermined
amplitude.

20. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1945, further comprising the initial step of generating a relatively low amplitude step function prior to generating the pulse-generated slow-rise defibrillation waveform, and wherein said pulse-generated slow-rise waveform is generated beginning from the relatively low amplitude step function.

21. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1946, wherein a total duration of said defibrillation waveform includes a range of approximately 13 ms to approximately 28 ms.

22. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1945, wherein said pulse-modulated slow-rise waveform is generated by a high speed, power switching converter.

23. (original) A method according to claim 22, wherein the slow-rise defibrillation waveform includes one of a voltage-controlled waveform and a current-controlled waveform.

24.-32. (canceled)